

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A lead implant system for implanting a lead for an implantable cardiac stimulation device, the lead implantation system comprising:

an elongated stylet having an internal passage extending longitudinally through the stylet; and

a guide wire that is slidably receivable through the longitudinally extending passage of the stylet, the combined stylet and guide wire being configured for slidable introduction into an elongated tubular lead body for cooperatively implanting a distal end of the lead at a desired location, and wherein the guide wire is configured for extension beyond a distal end of the stylet.

9. (Previously Amended) The lead implant system set forth in claim 8: wherein the stylet is configured to be firmly engaged with a thrusting region of the lead to wedge the distal end of the lead into place at the desired implant location.

10. (Previously Amended) The lead implant system set forth in claim 8: wherein the guide wire comprises:
a proximal shaft; and
an integral distal coil coaxial with the proximal shaft and extending distally from the proximal shaft.

11. (Previously Amended) The lead implant system set forth in claim 8: wherein the guide wire comprises:
a proximal tube; and
an integral distal coil coaxial with the proximal tube and extending distally from the proximal tube.

12. (Previously Amended) The lead implant system set forth in claim 8: wherein the stylet includes a ball member at its distal end to reduce the possibility of perforating the vasculature.

13. (Previously Amended) The lead implant system set forth in claim 8: wherein the stylet is composed of stainless steel and the ball member is stainless steel welded to the distal end of the stylet.

14. (Previously Amended) The lead implant system of claim 8 for use with a lead that defines an opening in a distal portion of the lead, and wherein the guide wire is configured for extension through the opening in the distal portion of the lead.